

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 04056 032120Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MCE-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-12
L-03 EB-08 /073 W
-----108160 032124Z /73

P 031845Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1036

S E C R E T ROME 4056

E. O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MASS, PCAT, IT
SUBJ: CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS TO THIRD WORLD: ITALY

REF: A) STATE 45364, B) ROME 3528, C) 77 ROME 20209

1. MISSION HAS NOT NOTED ANY DIMINUTION IN ITALIAN
EAGERNESS TO SELL ARMS TO LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS
A CONSEQUENCE OF THE U.S. INITIATIVE TO REDUCE ITS OWN
ARMS TRANSFERS. AS WE DESCRIBED IN REF. C, ARMS
EXPORTS TO THE THIRD WORLD ARE CRUCIAL TO THE VIABILITY
OF THE ITALIAN ARMS INDUSTRY. WE HAVE NOT
PERCEIVED AN INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF AGGRESSIVENESS
WITH WHICH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT PUSHES ITS INDUSTRY'S
SALES; RATHER THE PRESSURE CONTINUES AT THE SAME HIGH
LEVEL AS BEFORE (SEE REF. B FOR A RECENT EXAMPLE).

2. MOREOVER, WE THINK THE ITALIANS HAVE PROBABLY
BEGUN TO CALCULATE HOW U.S. RESTRAINT MAY
REDOUND TO THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE. LESS U.S. COMPETITION
IN THE ARMS TRADE CANNOT BUT BE A SOURCE OF
ENCOURAGEMENT TO ITALIAN INDUSTRY AND TO THE GOI.
AS LONG AS ANY U.S. SLACK CAN BE TAKEN UP WITHOUT
OVERT U.S. OR INTERNATIONAL DISAPPROVAL, THE ITALIANS
WILL NOT BE RELUCTANT TO DO SO. HOLMES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME04056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780098-0397
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803109/aaaadopr.tel
Line Count: 55
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 528d24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 45364, 78 ROME 3528, 77 ROME 20209
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3124632
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS TO THIRD WORLD: ITALY
TAGS: MASS, PCAT, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/528d24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014